

***Candidate Report Card***  
*www.democracycoalition.org*

This “report card” was developed by members of the Coalition for Democracy of Central New York as a guideline for evaluating political candidates on issues that many members of CfD believe are important.

This document describes the issues and provides a place to “grade” a candidate on each issue. The candidate is scored from 1-10 on each issue, with a 10 being the highest score (most consistent with the issue described). Issues on which there is no evidence of the candidate’s position may be omitted. There is space at the end of the form to tabulate the candidate’s overall average score for all issues rated. The document also has notes on relevant legislation for some issues.

Remarks in support of your scores may be continued on reverse of sheets.

A related document (“candidate comparison chart”) is available to compare the scores of several candidates.

Thanks to Nick Albaugh for developing this document.

Candidate/incumbent’s name:	overall average score
Office and district sought/held:	

**1. Election Reform:** Support public funding of elections; fair accommodation of third parties; paper ballots with hand counting (or, at a minimum, machine-read ballots with verifiable paper); uniform election procedures and resources throughout the voting districts of the state; redistricting as a function of an independent, nonpartisan commission; fundamental lobby reform. (See also #4, Corporate Reform.)

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:

**2. Church and State:** Support the rigorous separation of church and state; oppose any introduction of religious doctrine in operations of government or entities supported by government; oppose censorship of science and the subordination or suppression of scientific findings to political agenda; oppose government funding, direct or indirect, of religiously affiliated or oriented charities and entities. (See also #6, Education.)

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:

**3. Civil Rights:** Support equal protection under law for all, without regard to age, ethnicity, gender, including sexual orientation, origin, religion, or disability; absolute entitlement of women in all matters concerning their reproductive choices; revoke the Patriot Act; assure equal access to counsel.

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:
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**4. Corporate Reform.** Advocate that a feature of social responsibility must be imposed on the current corporate model; that a corporation be chartered for a finite period and its charter subject to renewal, alteration, or discharge; that anti-monopolistic regulations be enforced; that corporate gifts in any form, whether through lobbies or other agents, to government officials and political parties be unlawful.

Comment. The notion of minimally rationalized, eternal corporate personhood has proven injurious to the functions of government and the welfare of the American public. Ex officio government officials and staff are precluded for 10 years from accepting gifts or any form of employment from corporations that had or have business with the government, and from similar relationship with lobbies.

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:
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**5. Economy and Taxation:** Support a balanced federal budget; reinstate progressive income tax provisions; reinstate the estate tax.

Comment: The first \$2MM of estate is currently exempt, even though less than 1% of all Americans pay an estate tax.

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:
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**6. Education:** Support public education; oppose school vouchers; use tax codes to bring spending per student to adjusted parity; oppose teaching of creationism whether in the guise of intelligent design or otherwise; support free tuition at state universities; a new emphasis on civics education in the public school curriculum.

Comment. Public education is alternatively supported through a more equitable tax base, that of an income, sales, or use tax. The Owen County SD spends \$10,555/pupil, lowest in the state; Island Park SD spends \$36,287/pupil. The state average is \$12,930. See: <http://www.pressconnects.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060514/NEWS01/605140320/1001>

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:
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**7. Energy and Environment:** Support a comprehensive national program and a regulated system of localized public utilities, emphasizing conservation and renewable sources; restore PUHCA; implementation of a broad tax on resource use and environmental impacts for individual and corporate consumers.

Relevant legislation: Energy Policy Act of 2005, 08.08.05 (oppose).

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:
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**8. Foreign Policy.** Support the immediate withdrawal of troops from Iraq; oppose covert efforts at Iran regime change and preemptive military action; condemn an imperialist or interventionist foreign policy, including the doctrine of preemptive warfare; ban use of DU in munitions; re-engage the NPT; support trade agreements with minimum standards protecting environment, human, and worker rights.

Relevant legislation: HJ Resolution 114 to Authorize the Use of the Armed Forces in Iraq, 10.10 & 10.11.02 (oppose).

Relevant legislation: HR 3045 “CAFTA,” 07.28.05; S 1307 “CAFTA,” 06.30.05 (oppose).

Comment: The traditional values of fostering foreign relations through fair trade, diplomacy, leading by example, and humanitarian and cultural exchange are supported.

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:
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**9. Health Care:** Support a single payer health plan, such as universal Medicare.

Comment. The funding of health care through private insurance has produced an expensive, wasteful industry delivering care undependably and inequitably, of benefit primarily to the insurance industry. It is dismissed as a failed experiment.

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:

**10. Media:** Support diverse, free media with transparent political bias and ownership; repeal the Telecommunications Act of 1996; enact anti-monopolistic reforms; guarantee set-asides in the print, broadcast, and electronic media for local, non-profit operations; protect the neutrality and independence of the WWW; oppose censorship of media by the government, including FCC decency findings.

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:

**11. Social Security.** Oppose privatization; ensure financial stability through protection of fund.

Supporting remarks:	Issue score:

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Calculation of overall average score:

A. Total score of all items scored above: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Number of items scored: \_\_\_\_\_

C. Overall average score = A/B \_\_\_\_\_